

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of March 9, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-7 remain in this application. Claims 8-14 have been added.

Preliminarily, applicants note that the Examiner inadvertently did not initial the foreign patent document, JP 2000-49277, identified on the SB/08a form returned with the action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner make this reference of record with the next communication in the instant application.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 to improve their clarity and not for reasons related to patentability.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The action contends that the “the equipment” lacks antecedence. Applicants submit that claim 6, from which claim 7 depends, provides antecedence for “equipment” in line 2 – equipment disconnected from the network. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 6,513,719 to Imura in view of U.S. publication no. 2002/0025726 to Nishimura. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Below applicants will argue against that claims 1-7 are patentably distinct from the combination of Imura and Nishimura. Nonetheless, applicants reserve the right to remove one or both of Imura and Nishimura as a reference by establishing an earlier date of invention should one or both of these documents be applied in a future rejection.

Independent claim 1, recites, among other features, a file management portion connected to the network interface and configured to manage a relationship between a data file from the network and an address of the memory cell array. To show this feature of claim 1, the action points to CPU 316 in Fig. 3 and col. 2, lines 49-58 of Imura.

Imura, at col. 6, lines 22-26, describes data being inputted and outputted by a data input/output terminal through a bidirectional signal line, which is used for writing or reading out

control data referred to as a transfer protocol command (TPC) or the data itself. As such, Imura discloses a data/input output protocol (i.e., TPC), which is wholly different from file management. Significantly, in describing the function and operation of CPU 316, the TPC or otherwise Imura lacks a teaching or suggestion of a file management portion connected to the network interface and configured to manage a relationship between a data file from the network and an address of the memory cell array as recited in claim 1. Nishimura fails to remedy this defect. Even assuming, but not admitting, that the combination of Imura and Nishimura is proper, the combination does not result in the claim 1 combination of features. For at least this reason, claim 1 is patentably distinct from the combination of Imura and Nishimura. Also, claims 2-7, which ultimately depend from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons as their ultimate base claim, and further in view of the additional advantageous features recited therein.

New claims 8-14 are fully supported by the specification and submitted to be allowable over the applied art for at least the same reasons as claims 1-7.

CONCLUSION

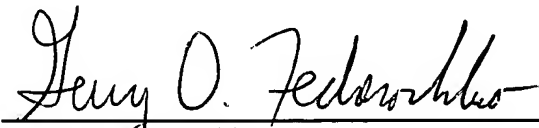
It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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